

The Bexar Wire

May 1997 The San Antonio Radio Club's

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 78, Issue 5

In Brief

IRCI gets new owner, shorter name: George Cutso George, W2VJN, and his wife, Georgia French, of Umpqua, Oregon, have purchased International Radio and Computers, Inc/Fox Tango of Florida. "The Florida operation ceased April 15, and we hope to be operational by May 1," Cutso George said. The company will be known as International Radio. It will supply crystal filters, enhancement kits and newsletters initially, as IRCI did previously. Cutso George said he hopes to update the filter line and add some new products. Cutso George is chief engineer and 50% owner (with N3RD) of Top Ten Devices. For more information, call 541-459-5623 (9

(Continued on page 5)

President's Memo

President's Memos...by Don, N5WSW

What a great month April brought with it some much needed rain. I for one hope the rain follows us through May as if I need say that its needed. Those of you that missed the last meeting the finance committee turned in their report and the 1997 budget was read and adopted. The adopted budget for 1997 is \$ 4700.00. We managed to get the renewal notice in the last issue so, if you haven't already please send in your dues. Furthermore, the club needs your suggestions so please come to the next meeting if you can;

love to hear from all of you.

10-10 News

Robert, WA5JDU is still ranked within the Top Ten Honor Roll, he's listed in 10-10 International News Vol. 35. Issue 2. p22 April 1997. Let's don't forget about the June 1st, 9th annual 10-10 Hill Country Picnic to be held at Jack Moore's QTH 371 Ridge Creek Ln., Bulverde, TX. 78163. Telephone (210) 885-2194 or you can reach him by e-mail: jmoore@texanet.net. Robert, WA5JDU will again be using W5SC along with the club's 10-10 number. Great time to

be had by all!

Ham--Com # 20

Ham com will be held in Arlington Texas at the Arlington Convention Center saddle up and go to the ARRL Texas State Convention. There you will have a lot of fun and great fellowship not to mention all the events. You can catch their web page at <http://www.hamcom.org> for the latest updates.

Field Day

Talked with Norm, KB5RIO he's sent off for the paper work and will be contacting

(Continued on page 2)

Ham Radio Excluded from CB Bill

At the request of the ARRL, Amateur Radio has been specifically exempted from a bill submitted April 17 by US Sen Russell Feingold (D-Wisconsin) that would give states and municipalities authority to enforce the FCC's CB regulations. Feingold's bill, designated Senate Bill 608, originated with efforts by the Beloit, Wisconsin, City Council--responding to long-standing CB interference complaints--to pass an ordinance allowing local authorities to enforce FCC regulations. The bill is aimed at reducing radio frequency interference stemming from the use of unauthorized equipment or frequencies by CBers.

In presenting his bill, Feingold told his Senate colleagues that he has received RFI complaints over the past several years from numerous Wisconsin communities "in which whole neighborhoods are experiencing persistent radio frequency interference." If approved by Congress, Feingold's bill would amend the Communications Act to allow state or local governments to enforce regulations that prohibit the use of CB equipment not authorized by the FCC (such as high-power linear amplifiers). As it now stands, no license is required to operate on the 11-meter Citizens Band, but the FCC does have strict requirements on the type of equipment that CBers can legally use. Feingold's bill would preserve the federal preemption of all other telecommunications matters. It excludes FCC-licensed services, including Amateur Radio, from state or local oversight. Also at the ARRL's request, the bill calls upon the FCC to provide "technical guidance" to states and municipalities in

SAREX Updates

SB SAT @ AMSAT SANS-124.01 MIR UPDATE

**HR AMSAT NEWS SERVICE
BULLETIN 124.01 FROM AMSAT
HQ
SILVER SPRING, MD, MAY 04,
1997
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT
BID: SANS-124.01**

In the STS-84 preflight press conference astronaut Mike Foale KB5UAC talked about ham radio and his stay aboard the Mir space station. As the schedule currently stands Mike will be aboard Mir from May to September.

Mike Foale goes on to say, "I took my [amateur radio] exam in preparations for STS-56. My commander then was a pretty serious radio ham Ken Cameron, KB5AWP, and he encouraged the whole crew to do it. Since then I've enjoyed taking part in those activities, and I do look forward very much to using the ham radio on the Mir throughout my stay there to talk to anybody who can speak to me in either English, American, or Russian. As for particular items of news - I'm open for anything - I just like chatting with people. Specifically I request that people just tell me about their

lives on Earth and what they're doing in their part of the world. I really enjoy having slightly longer contacts than just the brief collections of QSOs we do on shuttle. As a long duration crewmember I'm hoping that [hams] will allow me to talk longer with them, so I can have some contact with them and their countries and understand the people's conditions where they live as I fly over them."

[ANS thanks Philip Chien, KC4YER, for this report.]

* STS-84 LAUNCH DATE SET *

NASA managers set May 15 as the official launch date for Space Shuttle Atlantis' sixth docking with Russia's Space Station Mir following completion of the Flight Readiness Review at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC), FL.

The STS-84 launch window opens at about 4:08 a.m. EDT (0808 UTC) and extends for approximately seven minutes. The actual opening of the window may vary by a couple of minutes based on the Shuttle's rendezvous requirements and Mir's precise location in space at the time of launch. An on-time launch May 15 will result in Atlantis landing at about 7:49 a.m.

EDT (1149 UTC), Saturday, May 24, at KSC, completing nine days in space.

"We have just completed a comprehensive review of the STS-84 mission," said Johnson Space Center Director George Abbey, who chaired the meeting. "Together with our Russian partners, we reviewed the status of Atlantis and the Mir station and have agreed that everything is ready to proceed with the next docking mission. We look forward to welcoming Jerry Linenger home after his stay on Mir and also look forward to watching Mike Foale continue our cooperative efforts and joint science experiments on the station."

STS-84 is the sixth in a series of docking missions between the Shuttle and Mir and the third involving the exchange of American astronauts. Linenger, who has been a Mir crew member since January 15, will be replaced by Foale, who then will spend more than four months on the station before returning to Earth on the STS-86 Atlantis/Mir docking mission in September.

[Info via NASA]

3C0DX DX Team Itinerary

**AMSAT NEWS SERVICE BUL-
LETIN 124.02 FROM AMSAT HQ
SILVER SPRING, MD, MAY 04,
1997
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT
BID: SANS-124.02**

Everything is already, 15 days and countdown...The 3C0DX Team will leave from the Madrid airport in Spain, this 19th at 18:30 UTC.

They'll arrive to Paris, France 2 hours later and take a plane to Libreville, Gabon at 03:00 UTC on the 20th. Six hours more and Africa will be under their feet. Then two little planes will take them and their equipment to the island in about 2 hours more, flying over the Gulf of Guinea. A long way from Europe to Africa to be a whole week, 24 hours a day, transmitting, all bands, all modes including SATEL-

LITES: RS-10 Mode A and RS-12 Mode K.

QSL via EA4URE, P.O. Box 220, Madrid 28080, Spain
CONTRIBUTIONS: CAIXESMM/2100/1585/70/0200025062 LOT of INFO AND PICTURES AT: <http://www.ure.es/3C0DX>
E-MAIL: hj@ure.es
[ANS thanks Julio, EA5XX., for this information.]

News Items

RADIO SHACK TAKES HTX-204 DUAL BAND HT OFF THE MARKET

If you're one of the few people with a Radio Shack HTX-204 dualband amateur handy talkie, you just may have a collectors item. That's because after barely a month on the market, Radio Shack has pulled the popular radio off its store shelves.

In an April 17th notice to its stores, the Ft. Worth Texas based electronics chain ordered an immediate recall of unsold stocks of the radio. A source at Radio Shack's headquarters cites a "regulatory compliance issue" involving the transceiver. Radio Shack says it has no immediate plans to offer another dual-band HT.

The HTX-204 started showing up in the chain's 7000 retail stores about six weeks ago. An official at the company's headquarters tells the ARRL Letter that Radio Shack is worried about potential illegal use of the new radio but he declines to be specific. He does emphasize that the HTX-204 is perfectly legal for use on Amateur Radio frequencies. Newsline has learned that the radios can be modified, something Radio Shack never intended.

And, the radio was to have had a unique appearance as part of the agreement with the company making the radios for Radio Shack. But a dual band HT with the same appearance has turned up under another name, in apparent violation of Radio Shack's agreement.

This sudden recall hits many dealers by surprise. At the BirminghamHAMFest in Alabama, a Radio Shack vendor was planning to put the radios on sale as a Hamfest special, but he received orders just 48 hours before the Hamfest started not to sell the radios. And because Radio Shack has discontinued its single band 440 MHZ handy talkie, many dealers have few, if any, UHF radios available to sell.

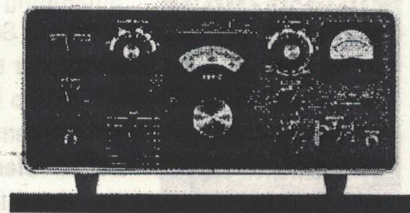
From April 27, 1997 "Amateur Radio Newsline"

Kenwood Service still in business: Despite rumors and reports to the contrary, Kenwood Service Corporation is still very much in business on both coasts, according to Kenwood's Paul Middleton, KD6NUH. Kenwood Service Center West held an open house April 25 at its new location at 13030 Alondra Blvd -- No. 104, Cerritos, CA 90703-2257; tel 562-483-8740. The service center moved from Long Beach, California, earlier this year.

Middleton said Kenwood Service Corporation is separate from Kenwood Communications Corporation, and the two service centers are "independently operated but chartered and regulated by Kenwood." Middleton, who's Kenwood's national sales manager for amateur and marine products, said the new West Coast center employs the same staff that formerly worked for Kenwood at the Long Beach location. No jobs were lost in the transition, he said. Kenwood Service Center East is at 829 Lynnhaven Pkwy -- Suite 130, Virginia Beach, VA 23452; tel 757-340-1702.

From May 2, 1997 ARRL Letter

More changes to WM7D call sign database: Mark Downing, WM7D, reports his call sign database now is available at <http://www.wm7d.net/fcc/callsign.html>. The database now includes Canadian call sign information from Industry Canada. WM7D recently added search capability for US amateurs by name, city, state, and/or ZIP Code. For more information, e-mail wm7d@wm7d.net. --Mark Downing, WM7D

**In Brief, continued from page 1**

AM to 1 PM Pacific Time, Tuesdays-Saturday); fax 541-459-5632; WWW <http://www.qth.com/inrad>; e-mail inrad@rosenet.net. --George Cutsogeorge, W2VJN

Astronaut Jay Apt, N5QWL, to head museum: Astronaut and ham Jay Apt, N5QWL, is leaving the astronaut corps to accept the directorship of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History

in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and expects to move to Pittsburgh this summer. The Carnegie is one of the largest natural history museums in the country, with a permanent staff of 85. "Every minute of the 21 years I've been a part of the space exploration program has been fascinating. Now it is time to give something back to the people who sent me there," Apt said in a prepared statement. "I am thrilled by

the chance to return to Pittsburgh and lead one of the best museums in America into the next century." Apt, 48, has flown four SAREX missions. He was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, but considers Pittsburgh his hometown. He has degrees from Harvard and MIT.

From April 25, 1997 ARRL Letter

ARRL CALLS ON FCC TO PRIVATIZE HANDLING OF MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE COMPLAINTS

Citing "a substantial need to improve and increase the quantity and quality" and timeliness of enforcement in malicious interference complaints, the ARRL has called on the FCC to "create a streamlined, privatized enforcement process" to handle and adjudicate the most serious Amateur Service rules violations. In a petition for rulemaking filed March 28, the League asked that the FCC change its rules to permit members of the volunteer Amateur Auxiliary to bring evidence of malicious interference violations directly before the Chief Administrative Law Judge. The Chief ALJ would be authorized to determine if the complainants have a valid case, to issue show-cause orders, and to designate complaints for hearing.

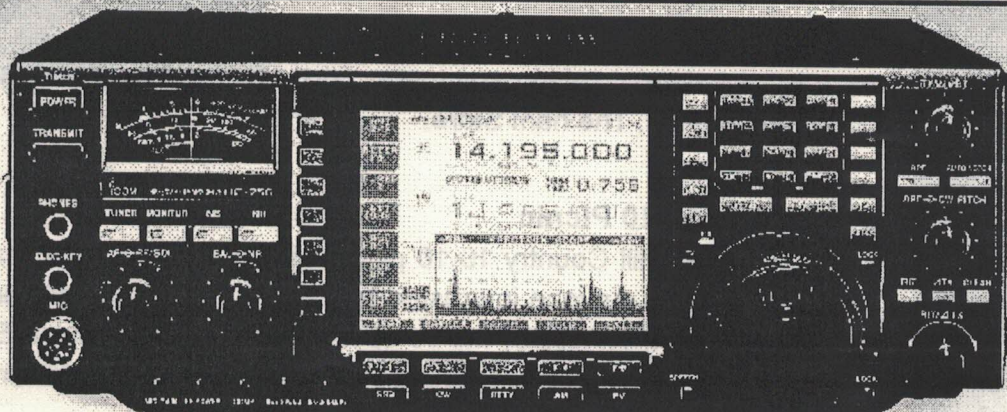
The League recommended that the FCC capitalize on the volunteer resources available through the Amateur Auxiliary to relieve the evidence-gathering burden in such cases. If the rules changes are approved, the League said it would likely assist members of the Amateur Auxiliary in preparing and submitting complaints and in presenting cases at administrative hearings. "The increased use of volunteer resources would seem to be entirely appropriate in the Amateur Service, which involves avocational use of radio only," the ARRL concluded.

While noting that most hams obey the rules, the League said Amateur Radio needs the Commission's help "in a very few, persistent, serious enforcement cases" but has not been getting it in recent years because of the FCC's staff and budgetary limitations.

"Indeed, notwithstanding the best efforts of the Commission over the past several years, there has been no resolution of the four or five most serious cases brought to the Commission's attention," the League said in its petition. Even in some of the cases the FCC did act upon, the League said the Commission did not go far enough to make the problems go away permanently. The League cited a case in New Orleans where fines against several amateurs were reduced but remain unpaid and uncollected. "There is a widespread, and growing, perception that administrative forfeitures are not collectable," the ARRL said, pointing to the complex, time-consuming method of collecting fines that is required by federal law. The ARRL noted that while the FCC suspended one ham's license in that city in 1996, it failed to look into malicious interference charges against at least two other hams in that area. The League said examples like these send a message that the FCC won't enforce Amateur Service rules in malicious interference cases. Informal mediation attempts also have failed. "Malicious interference problems, if left unchecked, tend to spread and increase in intensity," the League said. The ARRL suggested that a series of "visible, successful enforcement actions" would deter rules violations and promote self-regulation.

The ARRL also suggested that some FCC policies get in the way of timely, effective enforcement. Current Wireless Telecommunications Bureau policy requires the Commission to independently corroborate evidence gathered by Amateur Radio volunteers. "The policy often acts as an absolute obstacle to any enforcement activity whatsoever," and it demoralizes volunteers, who view their efforts as wasted.

While noting that malicious interference cases often attract a lot of attention within the amateur community, the League said ham radio can be "justifiably proud" of its history of voluntary rule compliance. "The overall level of compliant behavior among amateurs has not deteriorated over the years," the League emphasized, citing fewer than 10 active malicious interference cases in the US at present.



The Bexar Wire

Non-Profit Organization
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San Antonio, Texas

San Antonio Radio Club
5642 Spring Moon Street
San Antonio, Texas 78247



RICHARD J ELDER
WB5ACN
PO Box 35358
San Antonio TX 78235-0358

PAID THRU 1996

Coming Events:

Hamfests:

May 16-18, 1997	Dayton
June 6-8, 1997	Ham Com, Arlington
August 1-3, 1997	Summerfest, Austin
Nov. 1-2, 1997	Odessa

Remember, the last Saturday of every month there is an informal swap-meet in the parking lot of K-Comm, The ham Store.

9th Annual 10-10 Picnic

The 9th annual Hill Country 10-10 picnic will be held on June 1 at the QTH of K5CC (ex K4NF). Anyone interested in 10-10 is invited. Family and friends are welcome. Robert, WA5JDU, will be operating the club station, W5SC. For more details contact Jack at 210-885-2194 or on the K3WGF BBS or on e-mail to: jmoore@texanet.net



Builders?

Has anyone built any of the new Ten-Tec T-Kits? If so, why don't you write up a short note about how you found the kit to go together and your operating impressions? It would make interesting reading in The Bexar Wire!

Construction articles, DX worked, interesting contacts or interesting ham gear can all make good articles for the newsletter.

Is there anything you would like to see in the Bexar Wire? If so, drop me an e-mail or other note and let me know!

KI5SL

Local VE Testing

1. ARRL Test group:

San Pedro Presbyterian Church
14900 San Pedro, 3rd Thursday each month,
7:30 PM, Contact Les Dale, NI5S for more info
at 673-8852. there will be no April tests, testing
resumes May 15th.

2. W5YI Test Group:

San Antonio Amateur Radio Society (STARS)
Trinity Lutheran Church
5520 South Flores St.
2nd Saturday of the month, 12:00 Noon
Contact Joe, AF5D, for more info at 922-8136

3. ARRL test Group

Independent Fundamental Baptist Network
Liberty Baptist Church
7421 Marbach Road
Contact Jerry Sanders, AB5HE, for more info at
522-1758

4. Boerne Area ARRL/ W5YI Testing

Kendall Amateur Radio Society (KARS)
Boerne Fire Station, in the rear
1st Thursday each month, 7:00 PM
Contact David McDaniel at 981-4601 or Larry
Becker at 249-3168 for more info

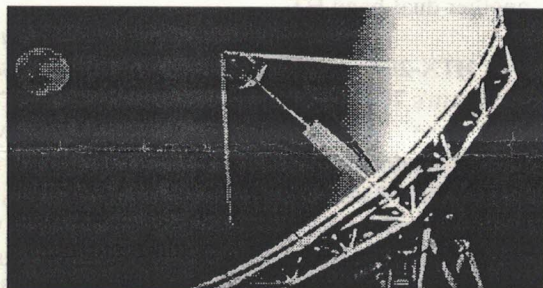
5. W5YI Test Group

Radio Operators of South Texas (ROOST)
1st and 3rd Saturday each month, 1:00 PM to 3:00
PM
Harmony Volunteer Fire Department, in the rear
11125 Foster Road
Call Diana, KK5CO, at 635-7384 for more info

6. W5YI Test Group

Last Saturday of the month, 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM
Red Cross Headquarters Building
East Houston and Commerce Streets
Contact Herman Aguirre, WB5TRK, at 433-1714 for
more info

New applicants should contact the V.E. examiner
for information on required identification, supplies,
testing fees and possible schedule changes.



Submitting articles to the Bexar Wire:

Electronic Submission is my preferred method of having articles delivered to me, but, I will take typewritten material or text on disk in Word, WordPerfect, or ASCII formats. If you would put these in an envelope, mark it: **To KI5SL**, and leave with one of the fellows at **K-Comm, The Ham Store** for me, I'll be able to handle them. K-Comm is on my way home so it is real convenient for me to me to pick up material there. e-mail: rblank@txdirect.net, put "Newsletter" as the subject, **please**, this will allow a copy to go into my Newsletter folder automatically. I am also available via packet on 145.09 or at K3WGF U.S. Mail address: 2331 Vance Jackson, San Antonio, Texas 78213. Thanks, KI5SL

San Antonio Radio Club Officers

President:	Don Jones, N5WSW,	Telephone: 342-5586
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Secretary:	Kurt Johnson, KB5ZZT,	Telephone: 561-0593
Treasurer:	Mike Check, KB5UCQ,	Telephone 525-4206
Seargent -at-Arms	Mike Rittiman, WB5OKK,	Telephone: 734-6952
Bexar Wire Editor:	Rick Blank, KI5SL,	Telephone: 525-8073

Letters

From: happyhal@juno.com (Hal E Henegar)
To: kj5ao@juno.com
Subject: Re: n5hij@juno.com (John P. Wind): little leos
Date: Wed, 30 Apr 1997 13:05:29 EDT

Jack ... thanks for the note ... I will join you and others in entering my endorsement of ARRL / AMSAT position on the matter. The force behind all of this is, of course, gluttony and greed on the part of industry. They either are not aware ... or simply don't care that the ham community is responsible for the development of most of the technology that they are not trying put into action and make all those big bucks with it! I am not speaking primarily of the LEOs ... but of technology in general. Cut the experimenting and developing hams off from their bands and they've cut off their own noses! It's amazing how little the general public knows about the contributions of the Amateur fraternity to ALL of the communications breakthroughs of all these years!!! "AM" ... "FM" ... "SSB" and even the transistor (two of the three Bell Telephone Lab people who invented the transistor were FCC licensed AM-ATEURS!) They are also NOT aware of the service rendered by Amateurs in time of disaster and emergencies

they think ham radio & CB is all the same stuff! What a POOR job we are doing in Public Relations in the Ham Radio ranks! Hal (W5MDL)
----- End forwarded message -----

Hal has good points worth some thought.
Jack

From: Clarence Laster
<CLAYW5ZPV@postoffice.worldnet.att.net>
Subject: New E-Mail Service for Ham Calls
Date sent: Mon, 21 Apr 1997 04:03:30 +0000

Fellow Hams:
Jessee Plymale, a Ham Friend from Houston, sent me this info. To look up any ham call for info, simply send the request to: lookup@qrz.com

You apparently don't need a subject line. Merely enter the call sign(s) or be looked up as:

lookup w5zpv
lookup w5org
(etc)

The answer should be forwarded back to you within an hour or so.

Rick, KI5SL: If this works out OK,

suggest you put this in the BEXAR WIRE club bulletin.

Regards,
Clay W5ZPV

CB Bill Excludes Ham Radio, continued from page 1

detecting and determining violations. Those affected by a state or local enforcement decision would be able to appeal to the FCC. ARRL asked Feingold to add this provision as final safeguard for amateurs who might be erroneously prosecuted despite the bill's other exemptions for amateurs. Feingold's bill also would not preclude the FCC from enforcing its own regulations as they apply to CB.

Feingold called his bill "a common-sense solution to a very frustrating and real problem which cannot be addressed under existing law."
From April 18, 1997 ARRL Letter



Solar Activity Increases

Sun watcher Tad Cook, KT7H, Seattle, Washington, reports: Solar activity was up a tiny bit last week, but the daily solar flux was still below the previous 90 day average of 74 on each day. Solar flux peaked slightly at 73.1 on April 27.

April 26-29 had very quiet geomagnetic indices, with an A index of 4 each day and many periods with a K

index of zero, the best there is for HF conditions.

The projection for the rest of May indicates more flat conditions, but of course this is based only upon the previous solar rotation. Since there has been no significant activity over the past month, there are no known really active regions to rotate into view.

Sunspot numbers for April 24 through 30 were 13, 12, 32, 17, 17, 12 and 0, with a mean of 14.7. The 10.7-cm flux was 69.8, 68.7, 70.9, 73.1, 72.4, 71.9 and 72.6, with a mean of 71.3, and estimated planetary A indices were 15, 7, 4, 4, 4, 4, and 11, with a mean of 49.

From May 2, 1997 ARRL Letter